



Province of  
British Columbia  
Ministry of Lands,  
Parks and Housing



GOLDSTREAM PROVINCIAL PARK  
MASTER PLAN

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Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing

This Master Plan for Goldstream Provincial Park is submitted for your approval.

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GOLDSTREAM PROVINCIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

March, 1986

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## PART I: SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

### A. Plan Summary

Goldstream Provincial Park is one of the most well known and frequently visited parks on Vancouver Island, attracting in excess of 400,000 visitors per year. Given to the people of British Columbia by the Greater Victoria Water Board and established as a Class 'A', Category 6 park, June 6, 1958, the park is bisected by the Trans Canada Highway and the Goldstream River for which the park was named.

Located 19 km northwest of Victoria at the start of the scenic Malahat Drive, this 327 ha park with its many natural features offers a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, camping, picnicking and interpretation.

Goldstream Provincial Park serves as a major destination campground for visitors to the Victoria area and also plays an important role in providing day use opportunities for local and regional residents. Goldstream River is a primary spawning channel for Chum Salmon attracting thousands of visitors each Fall to witness the annual event.

As such, this plan proposes to fully utilize all the park resources to develop and manage a provincially significant destination campground and day use area. However, consistent with the present level of use and development, the plan will be directed towards enhancing the quality of the visitor experience at the current level of use. In keeping with these objectives, the plan recommends the following:

- a new vehicle access will be constructed to enable the visiting public to drive closer to the Freeman King Visitor Centre.
- a new signing plan and kiosk plan will be implemented to better inform and direct the public.
- the interpretation of Native fishing practices on Goldstream River will be added to the interpretive program.
- to better facilitate the visiting public, the group campground will be expanded and consideration will be given to the addition of Mt. Finlayson and adjoining recreation reserve to the park.



Figure 1: Location

## **B. Provincial and Regional Context**

Goldstream Provincial Park is one of 17 Provincial Parks on Vancouver Island within 50 km of Victoria. The overall purpose of these parks is to provide the people of British Columbia and their visitors park opportunities associated with the marsh and upland environments and inland landscapes of southern Vancouver Island. These opportunities, varying from local day use to overnight campground use, will be influenced by the objectives of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division and by the environment and landscape of the park.

Within the Victoria Sub-Region, Goldstream Park provides opportunities such as trail walking, picnicking and interpretation for the local residents and camping opportunities for the residents of British Columbia and their visitors.



Entrance portal near the campground.

## C. Resources

### 1. Natural Resources

#### a) Natural Region/Regional Landscapes

Goldstream Park lies within the southern portion of the Coastal Lowlands Natural Region and is an example of the Georgia Strait Lowlands and Islands Regional Landscape.

#### b) Climate

The climate of Goldstream Park is characteristic of the Drier Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone, with warm dry summers and mild moist winters. Less than 5% (53 mm) of the annual precipitation (1083 mm) falls during July and August whereas 80% (868 mm) of it falls during the winter months.

#### c) Physiography

Goldstream Park is situated in the Nanaimo Lowland of the Georgia Depression that separates the Insular Mountains of Vancouver Island from the Coast Mountains of the British Columbia mainland. The Nanaimo Lowland is a strip of low lying land along the eastern coast of Vancouver Island below the 60 metre elevation.

The hard igneous and metamorphosed sedimentary rocks that underlie the Park have been severely eroded as a result of a series of relatively recent glacial periods, the latest of which ended approximately 10,000 years ago. Left behind after the melting of this last ice sheet are rounded off mountains such as Mt. Finlayson which overlooks the confined Goldstream Valley. Additional evidence of past glaciation are large deposits of sand and gravel left behind by the glacial melt waters. These deposits have partially filled the Goldstream Valley and underlie the campground and headquarters areas of the Park where the valley widens.

Some of the more conspicuous land forms are:

#### (1) Roche Moutonees:

examples: Mt. Finlayson and Mt. Wells

#### (2) A Fjord:

example: Finlayson Arm

#### (3) A Hanging Valley

example: The canyon of the Little Niagara Creek

#### (4) Waterfalls:

example: Little Niagara and Goldstream Falls

- (5) Young River Valley  
example: The Goldstream Valley
- (6) Meltwater Flood channels:  
example: The small stream near the campground at the southern end of the Arbutus Ridge Trail
- (7) Ground Moraine:  
example: The gravel deposits covering much of the bedrock under the Park
- (8) Kames and Kettles:  
examples: The low area near the Park known as Turner's Bog is a kettle hole and the ridge along its eastern edge is a kame
- (9) Alluvial Bottomland:  
example: The picnic site area
- (10) Alluvial Fan:  
example: The rocks and gravel crossed by the Nature House Trail in the vicinity of Little Niagara Creek
- (11) Barred Estuary:  
example: The salt marsh at the mouth of the Goldstream River.

d) Water

The Goldstream River and its tributaries, Waugh Creek and Niagara Creek, comprise the significant water sources of the Park. Both these streams have waterfalls and have scenic, recreational and interpretive values. The Goldstream River also has a minor historical value due to its use as a source of electric power for Victoria for many years. Its autumn migration of spawning salmon however is responsible for attracting more than half of the annual day use visitors that Goldstream Park receives.

In addition to its park values, the Goldstream watershed is part of the area used as a water collection basin by the Greater Victoria Water Board. The flow of the Goldstream River is controlled throughout the year by a dam 500 metres upstream from the Park boundary. Sufficient water is allowed past the dam to maintain the River's plant and animal life as required during all seasons of the year.

The brackish water of the Goldstream Estuary and the sea water of Finlayson Arm of Saanich Inlet are extremely rich in nutrients and thus support high level of plant and animal life.

These waters therefore help to give the Goldstream Estuary a major conservation value, attracting naturalists throughout the year. During the lowest tides the mud flats and gravel bars of this area also have a minor recreational value.

A waterfall in Goldstream Park

(PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE)

e) Vegetation

Goldstream Park lies within the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone. Vegetation patterns in the vicinity of the Park appear to be controlled mainly by fire history, and the soil-moisture requirements and shade tolerance of the individual species.

The vegetation of much of the Park has been undisturbed by man's activities and its visitors are therefore provided with an unusual opportunity to observe a very old forest where some of the Douglas-fir and Western Red Cedar trees are nearly 700 years old. Endemic to this forest type are the lichens and mosses that attach themselves to trees and rock faces of the Canyon Walls, creating a unique visual experience for park visitors

The lower areas along the Goldstream River channel have the available moisture to support associations of cedar, hemlock, grand fir, alder, yew, maple, willow and cottonwood as well as Douglas-fir. At higher elevations where conditions are drier, one finds associations of Douglas-fir, Arbutus, Garry Oak and Lodge Pole Pine.

Of special interest are: the giant Douglas-fir, and Western Red Cedars; the big leaf Maples that line the Trans-Canada Highway, the Arbutus, the flowering Dogwoods that make a beautiful springtime display on the hillsides above it and the plant communities of the Goldstream Estuary.

f) Wildlife

At Goldstream one can expect to see most of the animals that are found on Vancouver Island. The exceptions are wolves, elk, bear and cougar. Even the latter two, though never observed, undoubtedly pass through the Park.\* Mammals such as Coast Black-tailed deer, raccoons, mink, river otters, rabbits, squirrels, bats and mice are frequently observed.

Frogs, garter snakes and salamanders are the Park's most common reptiles.

The Goldstream River is the habitat for the spawning Chum and Coho salmon and their fry and a population of trout. Each autumn approximately 25,000 salmon return to spawn in this small stream and complete their life cycle. Elsewhere in the Park and particularly on the Goldstream Estuary there is a large variety of bird life that includes ospreys, ravens, crows, herons, dippers and many species of water fowl.

g) Minerals

The lands around Goldstream have a history of small scale gold mining activity. The area however is not heavily mineralized and only the Ralph Mineral Claim (Lot 77) on the shoulder of Skirt Mountain remains as an alienation within the Park. This claim

\* Naturalists have reported finding bear tracks and hearing of the occasional sighting of a cougar.

was in operation from 1897 until 1901 and produced 65 tons of ore with an assay rating of 5.7 oz. of gold per ton and 10% copper. It has two shafts and two addits and contains 21.4 hectares.

Other evidence of past mining activity can be seen on the Goldmine Trail where it passes a shaft and addit made before the turn of the century.

## 2. Cultural Resources

### a) Archaeological

The Goldstream River has been a traditional food fishery source for the Tsartlip Indian Band which has taken advantage of this River's annual autumn "salmon run". Adjacent to the Park is No. 13 Indian Reserve where a smoke house has been maintained for several years. In the Park, however, there is no evidence of past Indian habitation such as middens or buildings. It is probable that the cool shaded surroundings in this area of the Park and Goldstream's annual winter floods have dissuaded these Indians from taking up living quarters on their reserve or on the adjacent Park land.

- b) It is believed that Goldstream received its name from a prospector called Peter Leech about 1858. He called it Gold Creek. No significant findings of this metal were made but rumours of gold nuggets did instigate a brief frantic rush to Gold Creek. Peter Leech moved on to make a notable discovery of placer gold on the Sooke River. Leechtown was named after him and Gold Creek was left relatively undisturbed for the park users of our century to enjoy. Gold Creek's name has since been changed to Goldstream and in 1958 a 327 hectare tract of land where it enters Finlayson Arm of Saanich Inlet was given Provincial Park status.

The only remaining evidence of past mining activities is some small scale workings on the south western flank of Mt. Skirt and close to the Gold Mine Trail on the western side of the Goldstream Valley.

Other signs of man's past activities at Goldstream other than park development are: the E & N Railway, completed in 1896, Horse logging (1906-1910) on the east side of Goldstream River and the Trans-Canada (Malahat section) Highway.

Between 1897-1957 a small hydro-electric generating station operated at Japan Gulch Reservoir on the Goldstream River not far outside the Park Boundary.

### 3. Visual Resources

Because Goldstream Park is within the confined valley of the Goldstream River, its vistas of the surrounding mountains are available only to those able and prepared to hike to the higher sections of its trail systems. The exceptions are seen from the Freeman King Visitor Centre and include impressive views of the plunging shoreline of Finlayson Arm, the Goldstream Estuary and the rugged western face of Mt. Finlayson towering above the valley floor.

The Park's visual resources are mainly apparent from within the park and include spectacles of the giant veterans of the forest (Douglas-fir and Western Red Cedar), the Goldstream and Little Niagara Falls and the attractive Goldstream River as it flows through the little rocky pools and gentle riffles in its confined valley.

The visual impressions of Goldstream Park that are most familiar to the residents of Southern Vancouver Island are the old big leaf maple trees, the tall Douglas-fir forest and fern communities that line the Trans-Canada Highway through the canyon, and the view of the Goldstream Estuary from the Malahat Section of the Trans-Canada Highway. Both these views give the highway traveller a definite park feeling that is associated with Goldstream.

### 4. Analysis

#### a) Constraints and opportunities

Other than the fact that Goldstream Park has been developed to its optimum capacity, with most of the usable land developed for intensive recreational use or administration, its main constraint is the wide separation between its various facilities. The Park, for the most part, is a North-South highway corridor with the campground and headquarters located at the southern end and the picnic site and interpretive area at the northern end. This situation though remedied somewhat by the evening nature programs that are presented in the campground, is very limiting to the amount of use that the interpretive program receives.

The major under-utilized resource opportunities at Goldstream concerns the interpretive program, where the visitor centre could be made more accessible to the public both in terms of distance and in hours of operation.

Further, the Park's location which is close to one of Vancouver Island's major destination areas, lends itself to the possibility of creating an active public information program.

b) Significance to Park System Conservation Goals:

- \* Representative landscape

No significant landscape representation

- \* Special Natural Features

Goldstream Park plays a major role in the preservation of the Goldstream River Salmon Run, the stands of 600 year old Douglas-fir and Western Red Cedar and the salt marsh at the Goldstream Estuary.

- \* Historical Resources

There are no historical features of major significance provincially or regionally.

The construction of the Equimalt & Nanaimo Railway and electrical power generation on the Goldstream River play minor regional roles. This generator building, demolished in the 1950's was at one time a major technical advancement exemplifying the evolution of Hydro electric projects.

The Freeman King Visitor Centre was once the club house of the Victoria Fish and Game Association.

- \* Outstanding Recreation and Scenic Resources

There are no outstanding recreation or scenic resources of provincial or regional significance.

c) Significance to Park System Recreation Goals:

- \* Wildland

Goldstream plays a minor role in this regard with an extensive trail system located in its undisturbed stands of timber.

- \* Natural Setting

The natural setting of the Park is significant with its undisturbed stands of timber provide visitors with a refreshing change from the nearby urban area. This park also provides the best access to spawning grounds in the area and offers "optimum viewing conditions" to 100,000 visitors annually.

- \* Beach

Though the park visitors do make use of the large gravel flats of the Goldstream Estuary at low tides, this beach is not provincially or regionally significant from a recreational point of view.

- \* Boating

Opportunities for this activity are very limited due to the shallowness of the Goldstream River and the long distance that boats must be carried to the water. Canoeists more often are seen using the park to gain access to Finlayson Arm.

- \* Winter Activities

Winter is a quiet time at the Park. The mild, wet winters are not favourable to the normal winter activities. Hikers, however, use the trail system all through the winter months.

\* Touring/Camping

Goldstream is provincially significant for auto touring/camping. Its location on the Trans Canada Highway near Victoria encourages its use as a base for tourists visiting the Victoria area.

A typical trail in the park.

(PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE)

Viewing spawning salmon is a popular park activity.

(PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE)

**D. Land Tenures, Occupancy Rights & Jurisdictions**

**1. Leases and Use Permits (figure 2)**

- a) Park Use Permit #633 has been issued for a 30 metre wide high tension power line across Finlayson Arm. It involves .75 hectares of land and has a minor visual impact on the park.
- b) There has been a letter of authority (81-03-A) given to the Tsartlip Indian Band that allows them to have road access across a portion of park land in the north easterly corner of Section 6, Goldstream District. This letter was issued on March 23, 1982 to enable the members of the above Band to gain access to their reserve (No. 13) from Finlayson Arm Road.

**2. Fee Simple Lands**

- a) The only alienated land held in Fee Simple within Goldstream Park is the Crown Granted Ralph Mineral Claim within Lot 77, Highland District. It contains 21.5 hectares of land and includes nearly half of the gravel pit in addition to a forested area on the slopes of Mt. Skirt immediately above the Park Headquarters Buildings.

**3. Other Tenures and Interests**

- a) The Park is dissected by the Trans Canada Highway which follows the route of the Goldstream River through its confined valley.  
Maintenance of this route is the responsibility of the Ministry of Highways.
- b) The Finlayson Arm Road also passes through the Park, crossing the Goldstream River and meeting the Trans Canada Highway at the picnic site area. This narrow road is maintained by the Ministry of Highways.

**4. Trespasses**

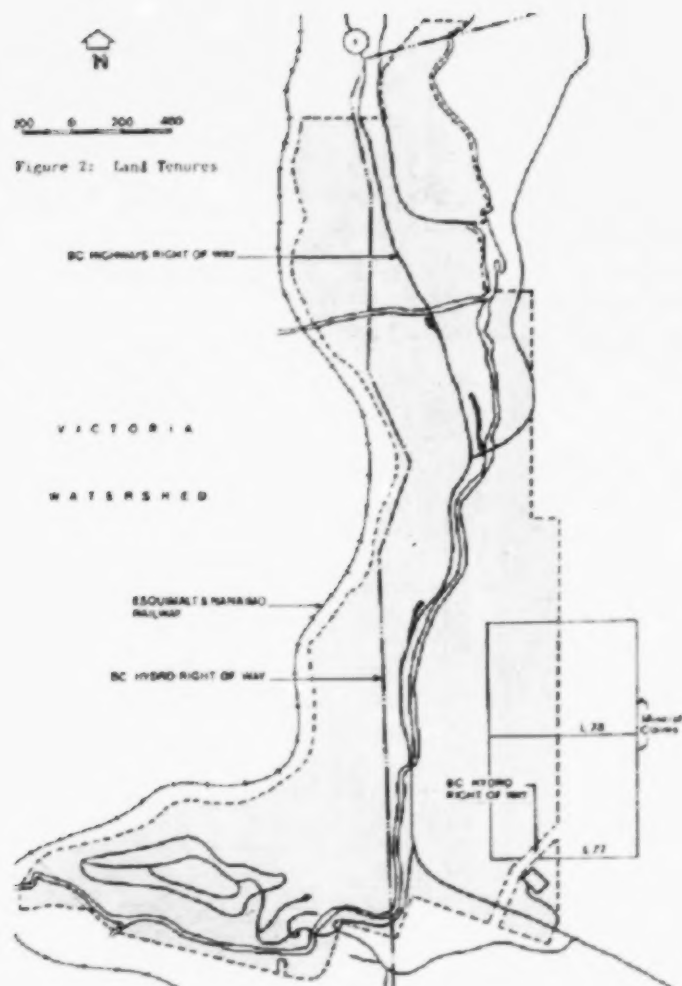
None

**5. Mineral Claims**

Two mineral claims occur within the Park; Lot 77, 78 (figure 2).

**6. Statutory Jurisdictions**

- a) Goldstream is a class "A" park of category 6, included in Schedule "A" of the Park Act.
- b) Fisheries Act (Canada) applies to the foreshore and Goldstream River.
- c) Wildlife Act - No hunting or discharge of firearms is allowed by park regulations.
- d) Navigable Waters Act (Canada) applies to the foreshore.



e) Environment and Land Use Act - applies.

f) Water Management Act - applies.

7. Major Additions or Boundary Adjustments

- a) The interim policy statement of 1976 indicated that Mt. Finlayson should remain in its natural state and available for public use. This concern still applies and therefore the acquisition of Section 80, Highland District which includes this mountain is still a priority.

Section 80 is registered in two parcels of land:

(1) Section 80 except the most southerly 20 chains - owned by Margaret E. Trowsdale, of Victoria.

(2) The most southerly 20 chains of Section 80 - owned by William F. Moore of Lantzville.

- b) The two mineral claims, Lot 77, 78 should be acquired.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

The Freeman King Visitor Centre

## **E. Existing Facilities**

### **1. Visitor**

In keeping with the purpose of the park, Goldstream has received substantial development (figure 3). A 155 unit vehicle campground, sanitary facilities, a sani-station, gatehouse and a 140 seat amphitheatre are all included within the park. A day-use area and extensive trail development throughout the park further compliment the development Goldstream.

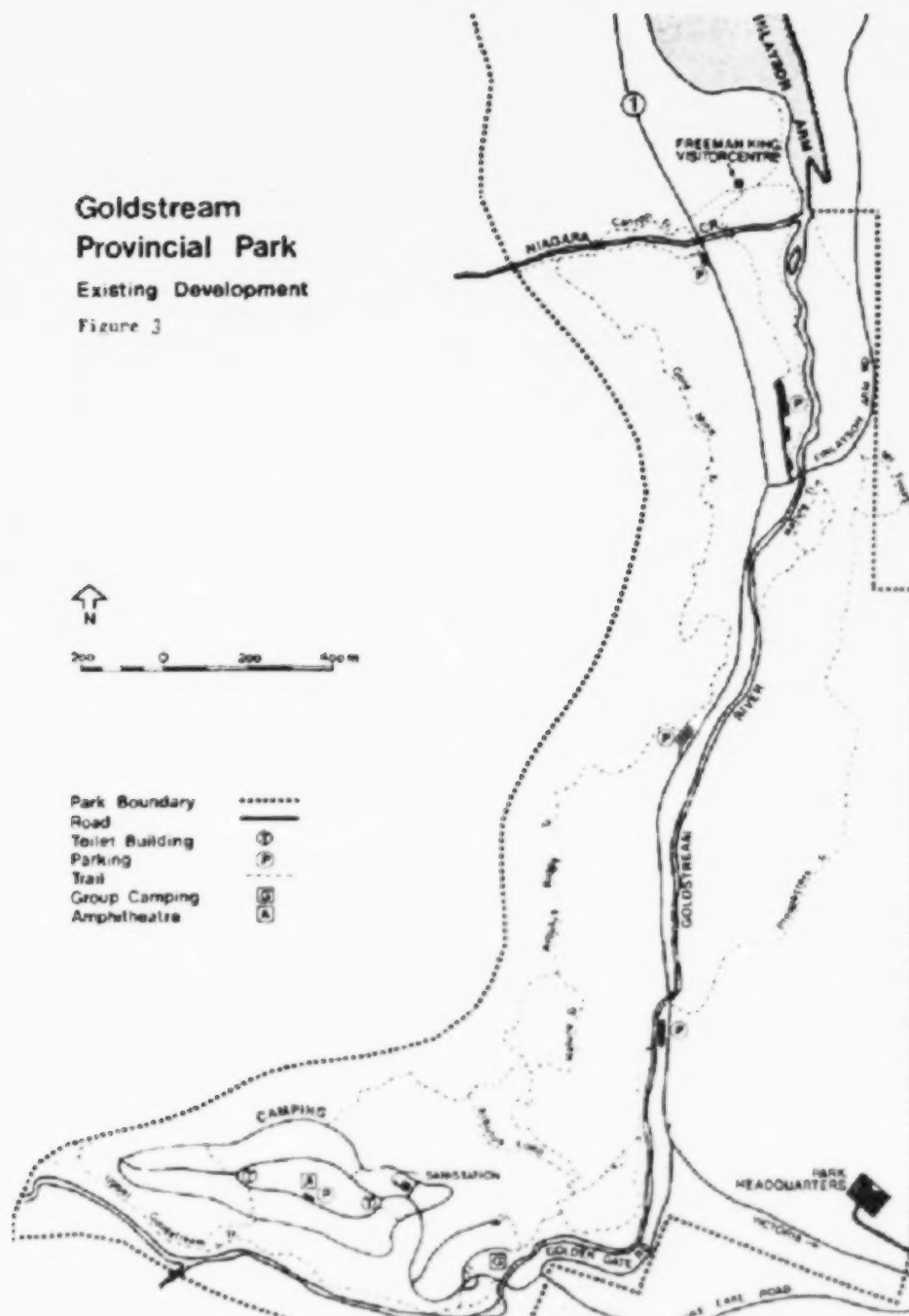
### **2. Management**

Goldstream Park is the administrative centre of the Malahat District. Facilities include an office and a large service and storage yard.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

A south-looking view of the estuary and the Visitor Centre

**Goldstream  
Provincial Park**  
Existing Development  
Figure 3



## F. Market Analysis

### 1. Existing Use

Average campground use over the last five years (1980 - 1984) exceeds 17,000 party nights while day-use figures average 86,000 party days for the same period.

TABLE I: Goldstream Attendance 1978-84

| YEARS | CAMPGROUND<br>PARTY NIGHTS | DAY USE<br>PARTY NIGHTS |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1978  | 16,600                     | 51,553                  |
| 1979  | 17,624                     | 60,092                  |
| 1980  | 18,597                     | 101,248                 |
| 1981  | 17,151                     | 92,862                  |
| 1982  | 17,008                     | 94,529                  |
| 1983  | 18,044                     | 52,709                  |
| 1984  | 15,999                     | 89,090                  |
| 1985  | 14,554                     | 74,597                  |

#### a) Camping

- approximately 15% of the Park visitors stay overnight (15,999 parties)
- 59% of the camping parties arrive in the summer holiday period of July and August (9,479 parties)
- 27% of the camping parties come during the period of either side of the summer holiday (May, June and September) (4,205)
- 14% of the camping parties are accommodated during the cool, wet winter and spring months of October to April (2,315 parties)
- 57% of the Park visitors are from British Columbia; 21% are from the rest of Canada, and 22% come from the United States. Studies undertaken on Vancouver Island in 1979 found that 44% of British Columbia's campers come from Vancouver Island and 13% are from the Vancouver area.

#### b) Day Use

- Eighty-five percent of the Park's visitors come only for the day (89,090).
- 21% of the day visitors arrive during the summer holiday period of July and August (19,137 parties).
- 11% of day visitors come during June and September.
- 8% of day visitors arrive during the winter months of January to March.
- 52% of day visitors come during the salmon spawning season of October to December.

#### c) Group Use

- Goldstream Park has two small group camping sites and accommodated 52 groups in 1984. This group camping use comprised approximately 4% (2,050) people of the total camping use for that year. However, group camping is becoming increasingly popular and existing facilities are inadequate to meet future group demands. The recorded group day use in 1984 occurred between April and November with 86% happening in October and November while the salmon were spawning in the Goldstream River - a significant component of the group attendance comprised of school groups. The remainder were mostly outdoor groups brought to the Freeman King Visitor Centre during the Spring and Summer months. Group day use at Goldstream accounted for 2 1/2% (7,745 people) of the Parks total day use.

d) Interpretation

- The interpretation program at Goldstream made contact with 81,641 people which was approximately 26% of its day visitors. 62% of these contacts (50,388 people) were made during the salmon spawning season in October and November (1984). The remainder of the contacts took place as a result of the summer programs and at the Freeman King Visitor Centre.

e) Trends

- Since 1975, park use has increased from 62,648 parties to a maximum of 119,845 in 1980. The 1984 use was 105,089 parties, an average increase of 68% during that 10 year period.

During the same 10 year period, camping use has fluctuated between 15,646 parties and 19,436 parties, affected primarily by weather conditions, but at or near capacity during July and August.

Day use has had an increase of 106% from 43,212 parties in 1975 to 89,090 parties in 1984. It is felt that this use has reached a plateau. As such, facility improvement will be directed towards enhancing the quality of the visitor experience at the present level of use, rather than increasing the level of visitor use.

Personal contacts made by the Interpretation program have increased from 12,386 contacts in 1977 to 81,641 in 1984, a 560% increase during an eight year period. Increased contacts will only be achieved through increased opportunities for the Greater Victoria population, particularly during the winter, spring and summer seasons. The use during the autumn salmon spawning season is near capacity.

2. Demand

Goldstream is by far the most popular park in the Greater Victoria area and after Rath Trevor Beach, is the second most popular Provincial park on Vancouver Island.

Day use is heaviest in October and November due to the salmon spawning in the Goldstream River and the day use parking lot is usually filled to over capacity on weekends and to near capacity during the week. During the spawning season, approximately 200 groups of school children take part in the Park's naturalist program. Campground occupancy rate for June, July and August is 85%, but in the latter two months the rate is 100%.

The Victoria area is one of the main destination areas on Vancouver Island and parks such as Goldstream, located in its vicinity, serve as overnight stopping places for many visitors on camping holidays. In these cases, Victoria is usually the first or last stop of Mainland visitors touring Vancouver Island. In addition to these mainland visitors, many family camping groups from Victoria come out to Goldstream each year for a camping experience and to take part in the naturalist program. \*

\* Refer to Appendix II: Nature Appreciation: A Resource with market potential for the Tourism Industry in Victoria, British Columbia.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

A visitor's view of the estuary

### 3. Supply

Goldstream Park is one of 19 places in the Greater Victoria area that provide camping and recreational vehicle accommodation. The 15 private resorts that advertise in Tourism B.C. Accommodation Guide provide 1456 campsites. An additional 304 campsites are provided by four Provincial parks (Goldstream, Bamberton, French Beach and McDonald), making a total of 1860 campsites in Greater Victoria.

Victoria has a large variety of outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities for both residents and tourists including popular lake and ocean beaches; stands of old grown timber; scenic hiking and viewing areas and places of historic interest. These resources are available for campers and day users in the following Provincial parks (China Beach, John Dean, Matheson Lake, West Shawnigan Lake and Spectacle Lake); 14 Regional parks, five major city parks and at Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park. The private sector's involvement, however, as might be expected, appears to be limited to recreation opportunities rather than those of conservation.

### 4. Market Summary

- a) Goldstream is the most intensively used Provincial Park campground in Greater Victoria. It is also a very popular day use area, particularly during the salmon spawning season of October and November when it draws half of its day users.
- b) Though the Park is not an outstanding recreation destination, it is, nevertheless, well known by camping tourists as a nice place to stay while visiting Victoria.
- c) During July and August the camping demand at Goldstream exceeds the supply.
- d) There is, however, an excess of camping capacity in the Greater Victoria area, particularly in the private sector.
- e) The campground is increasingly being used by local/community campers.
- f) Goldstream lacks many traditional day use opportunities, (ie) no swimming, fishing, sunbathing, but offers a variety of activities unique to this park.

## G. Planning Issues

*Increasing the accessibility of the Visitor Centre for the public and the implementation of various management programs intended to better facilitate the public, are the significant planning issues of Goldstream Provincial Park.*

Although the Visitor Centre, located a 15 minute walk from the parking/picnicking area, is a popular feature of the park, its present location and level of accessibility dampens its potential level of use. As such, improved vehicle access to the Visitor Centre is warranted. However, the visual integrity of the valley leading to the Visitor Centre must not be compromised.

The nature of the local topography, the bisection of the park by the Trans Canada Highway, and the high level of use, all have contributed to some management issues for Goldstream Provincial Park. Firstly, the popularity of the park suggests that additional day use visitor programs be developed to increase year round visitation. Secondly, the existing park signs do not adequately inform or direct the public to the available facilities, resulting in traffic problems and general confusion among visitors. Thirdly, the popularity of the hiking opportunities throughout the park, especially along Goldstream River, has lead to excessive wearing of existing trails and the creation of new trails by hikers making their own paths through the woods. Further to this issue, many hikers utilize the trails leading to Mt. Finlayson and assume that this area is included within the park when in fact the lands are privately owned. Currently, the owners have not objected to the public's use of the trails and future protection of this significant recreational and viewing feature must be considered.

Much of the values associated with Goldstream Provincial Park are found in its natural resources. The old growth forest, its diverse plant communities and Goldstream River are particularly sensitive to visitor use and must be effectively managed to ensure their continued preservation.

Another management issue involves the visibility of Native fishing practices on the Goldstream River Indian Reserve (No. 13), adjacent to the park. Although the Natives are carrying out an important part of their livelihood, some park visitors have complained about witnessing the gaffing of spawning salmon, while others find it fascinating and part of their cultural heritage.

## **PART II: THE PLAN**

### **A. Specific Objectives**

Within the overall objectives for Provincial Parks on Vancouver Island, Goldstream offers overnight and day use opportunities for the residents of the Greater Victoria area and their visitors as well as providing a rest-stop for the travelling public on the Trans Canada Highway.

Included in these opportunities are park activities such as camping, picnicking, trail walking and nature interpretation.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Natives fishing Goldstream River

## **B. Zoning**

Figure 4 shows the zoning plan for the park.

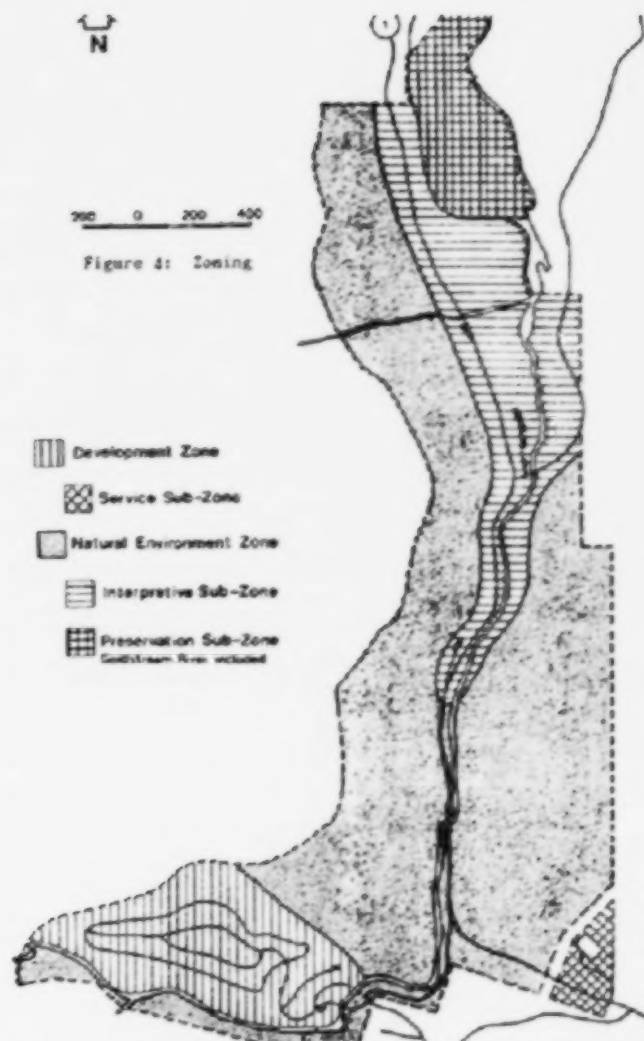
The Development Zone includes all areas to be developed for roads, parking, picnicking, camping and the visitor centre.

The Natural Environment Zone includes all areas to be used for non-intensive recreation and to remain in a natural state.

The Preservation Sub-Zone includes areas such as Goldstream River and the Finlayson Arm Marsh, where only observational and non-intensive recreational use will be permitted.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Visitors viewing spawning salmon



### C. Development Plan

For the most part, Goldstream Provincial Park has been fully developed in order to meet its concept. As such, the development plan (figure 5) is primarily directed towards facility improvement with the intention of enhancing the quality of the visitor experience at the present level of use.

A new vehicle access route will be constructed to enable the visiting public to drive closer to the Visitor Centre, thereby reducing the amount of walking time required to reach the centre. The new access route will terminate at the south side of Niagara Creek, where a 30 car parking lot will be constructed, effectively cutting the walking time to 3 minutes.

An interpretive plan will be written and implemented for the Visitor Centre reflecting its dual role as an introduction to the provincial parks on the south end of Vancouver Island and as an introduction to Goldstream Park itself. In an attempt to maximize the opportunities provided by the Freeman King Visitor Centre, visitor programming should be expanded.

The Visitor Centre will also serve to introduce visitors to other provincial park opportunities available on southern Vancouver Island.

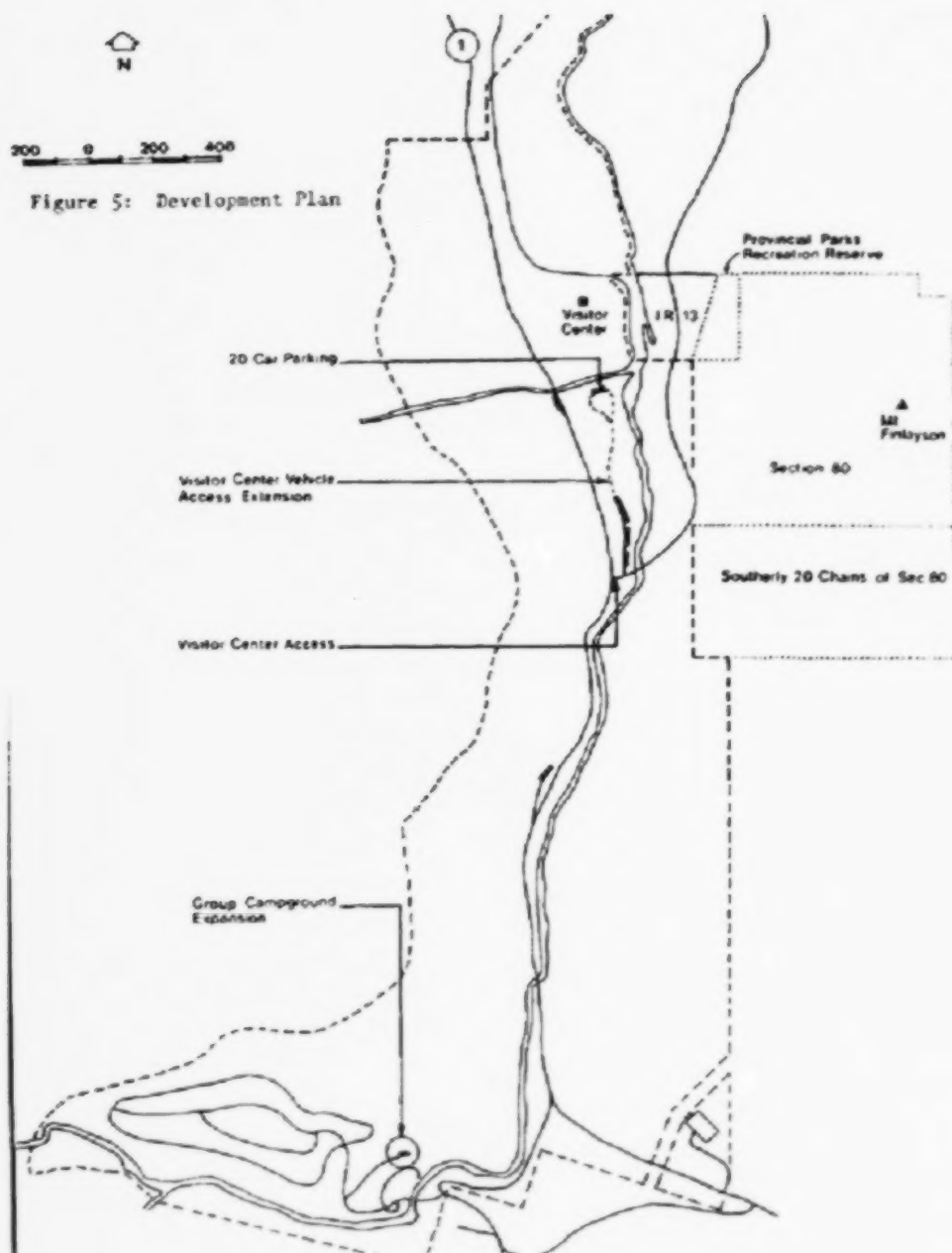
In conjunction a marketing and strategy plan is recommended. To better develop this park's facilities this Master Plan recognizes that only through creative marketing and innovative programming will day use increase. Such marketing should examine the major user groups and how to satisfy them.

To better inform and direct the visiting public, a new signing and kiosk plan will be developed and implemented throughout the park. This will also include improved signing on the trail system, in an effort to decrease the level of unauthorized trail proliferation.

To address the concerns of those visitors not familiar with Native fishing practices, the addition of this subject to the interpretive program in cooperation with the Native Band, will help to alleviate some of the problems.

Consideration should be given to the development of a plan in cooperation with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway to provide an alternate access method to Goldstream Park. A shelter, built adjacent to the railway in proximity to the day use area of the park would facilitate the loading and off-loading of park visitors, and trails would connect to the Visitor Centre and picnicking areas.

To better facilitate the visiting public, other management goals will include the expansion of the existing group campground, the acquisition of Mt. Finlayson and the adjoining recreation reserve (lands file 0244531) into the park.



#### **D. Management Policies**

Policies for the management of park resources and public use parallel normal Division policy in all instances. Specifically:

- \* Land and water; in accordance with the Park Act and Park Regulations.
- \* Vegetation; fires only in designated fire pots; grass maintained to reduce fire hazard;  
  
prepare a Vegetation Management Plan ensuring protection of old growth stands which are sensitive to any proposed development;  
  
review the Hazard Tree Program in light of its effectiveness in reducing public risk from over-mature forest growth.
- \* Wildlife; a no-hunting regulation will continue.
- \* Cultural; include an interpretive element explaining the Native fishing practices.
- \* Scenic; protect views from park development, and consider the acquisition of Mt. Finlayson to protect visual quality.
- \* Recreation; acceptable types of recreation include viewing, picnicking, hiking, informal sports, vehicle camping, group camping, interpretation of cultural and natural features including viewing salmon spawning.
- \* Education; features of the park provide attraction for local and visiting school groups.
- \* Research; non-extractive research will be permitted.
- \* Concessions or Permits; considered if they meet or increase objectives of the park.

#### **E. Marketing and Information Program**

Marketing and information will be done in two ways.

Off-site information about the park and its opportunities will be given through normal mall displays, tourist information centres and the Vancouver Island Provincial Parks brochure.

On-site information about the park, Native fishing practices, history of the park, proper trail-use, and the ecology of the marsh will be dispersed through displays at the information shelter and the various sites. The kiosk will identify other nearby parks and their facilities. The Freeman King Visitor Centre will serve as a major introduction to the provincial parks on the southern end of Vancouver Island, as well as dealing with park specific natural and human history themes.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

A waterfall in the park

## **F. Plan Implementation**

The goals and objectives set forth in this plan for Goldstream Provincial Park will be achieved through a three phase implementation plan.

### **Phase I**

The initial phase will be directed towards improving the existing facilities within the Park.

- development and implementation of a signing plan, including kiosk location and entrance portals
- addition of Native fishing practices to the interpretive program
- development of an Interpretation Plan for the Visitor Centre
- prepare Vegetation Management Plan

### **Phase II**

The secondary phase will be directed towards increasing the level of development and access to better facilitate the public.

- construction of a new access route and 30 car parking lot for the Visitor Centre
- expand existing group campground
- implement Interpretation Plan

### **Phase III**

The tertiary phase involves the inclusion of Mt. Finlayson (Section 80, Highland District, including the southerly 20 chains of Section 80) and the adjacent recreation reserve into Goldstream Provincial Park, (figure 5). Further, the mineral claims (Lot 77, 78) within the Park will be acquired.

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX: 1

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOLDSTREAM  
PARK**

March 3, 1958 - Lot 1, Goldstream District, Plan 12326 was donated by the Greater Victoria Water District, containing 680 acres.

June 26, 1958 - Goldstream established as a Class A Provincial Park (OIC 1502).

Dec. 4, 1969 - Hydro Plan 2161 RW containing 7.4 acres deleted from the park (OIC 3881).

June 18, 1970 - Goldstream designated as Class A, Category 6 - addition of Block B, Lot 88, Highland District, Plan 3969-W containing 53 acres (OIC 2081).

Dec. 22, 1970 - addition of Section 6, Goldstream District, except that part within Plan 12326 containing 23 acres.

April 17, 1972 - acquisition of the Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association Clubhouse (now the Nature House).

July 11, 1972 - addition of Lot 1 of Lot 85, Malahat District, Plan 24461 containing 59.4 acres.

COLDSTREAM PARK

The area described below has been established as a  
Class "A" Provincial Park.

"lot One (1), Coldstream District, Plan 12326,  
and containing 729 acres more or less."  
680.20

Class "A" Park  
O.I.C. No. 1502  
App. 26,6,58  
0180215  
R.H. 46/7-7-8 P.H. 2A  
Located S. end of Finlayson Arm. Van. Is.  
H.B.  
17.7.58

c.c. Forest Management Div.  
Air Surveys Div.  
Chief Geographic Div.  
Legal Surveys Div.  
Lands Branch  
Dept. of Mines

Surveyor of Taxes  
District Forester

Attn. Draughting Office  
Attn. Base Maps  
Attn. Mr. L. Hooper  
Attn. Mr. D. Peerman  
Status Sec. - Vault  
Mining Recorder & Central Recs  
Rm. 411 Douglas Bldg.

(2 copies)

2-1-1-25

DELFTON

GOLDSTREAM PARK

The area described below has been deleted from  
the above named Park:

"Commencing at a point on the most northerly South  
boundary of Goldstream Park 750 ft. more or less  
N 70°09'40"W of the most northerly southeast corner;  
thence N 70°09'40"W 200 ft.; thence N 21°57'E 831 ft.;  
thence N 48°25'E 932 ft. to the easterly boundary  
of Goldstream Park; thence southerly along said  
East boundary 267 ft.; thence S 48°25'W 703 ft.;  
thence S 21°57'W 774 ft. more or less to the point  
of commencement containing 7.4 acres more or less."

Class "A" Provincial Park  
O.L.C. No. 3381  
App. 4.12.69  
0180215  
R.M. 92 B/SW (1) B/5 E  
Located: South end of Finlayson Arm.  
J.M.  
12.1.70

|                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| cc: Forest Management Division | Attn. Draughting Office            |
| Forest Management - Planning   | Attn. Mr. E. Bennett               |
| Forest Inventory               | Attn. Mrs. L. Moody                |
| Air Surveys Division           | Attn. Base Maps                    |
| Chief Geographic Division      | Attn. Mr. L. Hooper                |
| Legal Surveys Division         | Attn. Mr. D. Pearson               |
| Lands Branch                   | Status Section - Vault             |
| Dept. of Mines & Petroleum     | Mining Recorder & Central Records, |
| Resources                      | Room 411, Douglas Building         |
| Surveyor of Taxes              | Room 125, Main Building            |
| District Forester              | Vancouver                          |
| Fish and Wildlife Branch       | Victoria                           |

2-1-1-2,

GOLDSTREAM PARK

1. The above named Park, which was established as a Class "A" Provincial Park by Order-in-Council no. 1302, approved June 26, 1953, has been designated as a part of Class "A", Category 6.

2. The above named Park has been extended by the addition of the following described area:

"Block B, Lot 39, Highland Land District, containing approximately 53 acres, as shown on Plan deposited under No. 33644."

Class "A" Provincial Park, Category 6  
O.I.C. No. 2081  
App. 13.6.70  
0130215  
R.M. 92 B/5A (1) B/5 B  
Located: South end of Finlayson Arm.  
J.N.  
25.6.70

cc: Forest Management Division  
Forest Management - Planning  
Forest Inventory V  
Air Surveys Division  
Chief Geographic Division  
Legal Surveys Division  
Lands Branch  
Dept. of Mines & Petroleum Resources  
Surveyor of Taxes  
District Forester  
Fish and Wildlife Branch

Attn. Mapping Office  
Attn. Mr. L. Bennett  
Attn. Mr. H. Moody  
Attn. Base Maps  
Attn. Mr. L. Hooper  
Attn. Mr. D. Pearson  
Status Section - Vault  
Mining Records & Central Records,  
Room 401, Douglas Building,  
Room 123, Main Building  
Vancouver  
Victoria

2-1-1-27

Goldstream

GOLDSTREAM PARK

The above named Park has been extended  
by the addition of the following described area:

"Section 6, Goldstream District, except  
that part thereof included within the  
boundaries of Plan 12325."

Containing approximately 23 acres.

Class "A" Provincial Park, Category 6  
O.I.C. No. 4361  
App. 22.12.70  
0193737  
R.M. 92 B/SW (1) B/S E  
Located: South end of Finlayson Arm.  
J.M.  
9.2.71

|                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| cc: Forest Management Division | Attn. Drafting Office              |
| Forest Management - Planning   | Attn. Mr. A. Bennett               |
| Forest Inventory               | Attn. Mrs. W. Moody                |
| Air Surveys Division           | Attn. Base Maps                    |
| Chief Geographic Division      | Attn. Mr. A. Jesse                 |
| Legal Surveys Division         | Attn. Mr. L. Taylor                |
| Dept. of Agriculture - 1200    | Attn. Mr. G. L. Howell Jones       |
| Land Branch                    | Statistical Section - Vault        |
| Dept. of Mines & Petroleum     | Mining Recorder & Central Records, |
| resources                      | Room 411, Douglas Building,        |
| Surveyor of Lands              | Room 123, Main Building,           |
| District Forester              | Vancouver                          |
| Fish and Wildlife Branch       | Victoria                           |

2-1-1-29

2-6-1-25

ADDITION

COLDSTANLEY PARK

The above named Park has been extended  
by the addition of the following described area:

"Lot 1 of Lot 35, Malahat District.  
Plan 24461 containing 59.4 acres."

Class "A" Provincial Park, Category 6  
O.I.C. No. 2656  
App. 11.7.72  
0193737  
R.M. 92 B/SW (1) B/S E  
Located: South end of Finlayson Arm.  
J.M.  
17.7.72

cc: Forest Management Division ✓  
Forest Management - Planning ✓  
Forest Inventory ✓  
Air Surveys Division ✓  
Map Production Division ✓  
Legal Surveys Division ✓  
Dept. of Agriculture - ARDA ✓  
Lands Branch ✓  
Dept. of Mines & Petroleum Resources  
Surveyor of Taxes  
District Forester  
Fish and Wildlife Branch

Att. Draughting Office  
Att. Mr. E. Bennett  
Att. Mrs. K. Moody  
Att. Base Maps  
Att. Mr. A. Gosse  
Att. Mr. W. Taylor  
Att. Mr. G.I. Howell Jones  
Status Section - Vault  
Mining Recorder & Central Record  
Room 411, Douglas Building  
Room 125 Main Building  
Vancouver  
Victoria

## **GOLDSTREAM PARK**

### **CONSOLIDATED LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

- Firstly: Lot 1, Goldstream District, Plan 12326 except that park included in Hydro right-of-way Plan 2161 R/W.
- Secondly: Lot 1 of Lot 85, Malahat District, Plan 24461.
- Thirdly: Block B, Lot 88, Highland District, Plan 3969-W.
- Fourthly: Section 6, Goldstream District, except that park thereof included within the boundaries of Plan 12326.

The whole containing 327.0 hectares (808 acres) more or less.

NOTE: Administrative Consolidation Only

RRM:lm  
January 1979

Appendix 2  
Figure 1.

6a



Source: Nature Appreciation:  
A resource with market potential for the Tourism Industry in Victoria, British Columbia.  
The Sierra Club of Western Canada.

Table 3

## Vacation Style by Length of Stay

| Vacation Style | Length of Stay |                |               |               | Total          |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                | 1 Night        | 2 Nights       | 3 Nights      | 4 or More     |                |
| Hotel          | 77<br>(64.7%)  | 102<br>(67.1%) | 51<br>(63.8%) | 23<br>(52.3%) | 253<br>(64.1%) |
| Camping        | 42<br>(35.3%)  | 50<br>(32.9%)  | 29<br>(36.3%) | 21<br>(47.7%) | 142<br>(35.9%) |
| Total          | 119            | 152            | 80            | 44            | 395            |

Cramer's V = 0.09129

Chi-squared = 3.29206

Chi-squared significance level = 0.05

Figure 4

## Top Ten Vacation Activities of Motel Users &amp; Campers

| Activity             | Rank        |         |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|
|                      | Motel Users | Campers |
| Attending operas etc | 10a         | -       |
| Beachcombing         | 6           | 7       |
| Bicycling            | 9           | 7a      |
| Boating              | 10b         | 9       |
| Camping              | 8           | 1       |
| Dining out           | 1           | 8       |
| Fishing              | -           | 7b      |
| Nature walks         | 7           | 4       |
| Picnicking           | -           | 10      |
| Scenery & wildlife   | 5           | 2       |
| Shopping             | 5           | -       |
| Travelling           | 4           | 5       |
| Zoos, aquariums etc  | 2           | 6       |

#### **E. Length of Stay & Vacation Style**

Respondents indicated the number of nights their travel party spent in Victoria as 'one', 'two', 'three', and 'four nights plus'. Since campers were seen to be self-sufficient, and therefore spending less on accommodation and restaurant meals, it was assumed that they were more likely to stay longer in Victoria than motel users. Results of this analysis are shown in Table 3 and they indicate that there is only a slight tendency for those who stay longer to be campers. However, these results are not statistically significant, and consequently it must be concluded that there is no relationship between length of stay and vacation style.

#### **F. Vacation Interests & Vacation Style**

When the top ten vacation interests and activities of motel users and campers were examined, more similarities than differences emerged.

Fishing and picnicking were two activities included by campers, but not by those who stay in motels. As might be expected, attending events such as operas, ballets, plays and concerts, and going shopping were favourite activities among motel users, but were not mentioned by campers.

Otherwise, both groups shared interests in beachcombing, cycling, camping, boating, nature walks, observing scenery and wildlife, travel, visiting zoos, aquariums, museums, and gardens, and dining at restaurants, although they did not rank these activities in the same order. See Figure 4.

Note that both groups of vacationers consider activities relating to nature appreciation as important. This gives credence to an earlier assertion that a vacation, in essence, is an opportunity to explore a natural heritage. It also strengthens the assertion that activities related to nature appreciation are of interest to a majority of prospective tourists.

#### **VI. Present Use & Future Development of Parks**

Regardless of the vacation style they chose, visitors were asked to identify Victoria area parks they had visited. The ten parks mentioned most often were Beacon Hill Park, Goldstream, McDonald Park, Elk-Beaver Lake, Mt. Doug, Thetis Lake, Esquimalt Lagoon, French Beach, Island View Beach, and Botanical and China Beach.

Twenty three percent of those surveyed indicated that maps were their main source of information about parks, 20% indicated brochures, 19% word of mouth, 13% the Tourist Information Centre, 11% past experience, 8% chance, and the remaining 6% some other source.

The ten attractive park features mentioned most frequently were natural settings, beautiful scenery, good park maintenance, proximity to the city, uncrowded facilities, birds and wildlife, good camping facilities, opportunities for solitude, adequate washrooms and sufficient water supply.

The most unattractive park features involved personal facilities. 20% of those who responded to this question complained about toilets (pit toilets, no locks on doors), or showers and sinks (none, not enough, no hot water).

Nine percent of those who responded to the question had complaints about campsites. Among these were cost (given facilities offered), insufficient number of campsites, or not enough campsites where the ground was suitable for tenting.

When asked about future direction for park development, 83% of those who responded indicated that commercial or logging operations should not be permitted in parks, or recreational facilities in parks should be reduced, or parks should be left as they are now.

The qualities of parks which respondents appreciated include natural settings, beautiful scenery, the presence of wildlife and the opportunity for solitude. Consequently, the presence in parks of logging, mining and even commercial activities appears to them out of place. However, many respondents left no doubt that modern washroom facilities were expected.

## **VII. Conclusion**

New social values and a new understanding of nature are changing the way people interact with their natural environment. In the past, zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens have served as major contact points between people and nature. Although these attractions are still popular, recent trends suggest many people have a growing interest in observing wild creatures in their natural environments, and a willingness - even an eagerness - to travel in order to do so. As natural environments become more scarce worldwide, opportunities to experience them can be expected to attract more visitors. From the study at hand, two factors in particular emerge which demonstrate that this trend is already well established. First is the finding that both motel users and *[remainder of plan not available]*.

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